

House Resolution 1713

By: Representatives Manning of the 32nd, Gardner of the 57th, Houston of the 170th, Walker of the 107th, Channell of the 116th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the
2 Department of Community Health, and the Department of Human Services submit to the
3 General Assembly a multiyear comprehensive plan for creating a system of supports for
4 home and community based services that support independent living of Georgians with
5 disabilities; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, the provision of services and support for people with disabilities and their
7 families has changed in recent years to focus less on institutional care and more toward
8 providing home and community based services (HCBS) that allow people with
9 developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and mental illness to
10 receive the support necessary to live independent and productive lives in the community; and

11 WHEREAS, it is desirable to provide home and community based services for some
12 individuals with disabilities and to avoid the use of institutions; and

13 WHEREAS, this state remains committed to providing people with opportunities for real
14 homes, jobs, learning experiences, recreation, and real choice in their lives; and

15 WHEREAS, 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the *Olmstead* decision, which covers
16 people currently institutionalized and at risk of institutionalization; and

17 WHEREAS, there are almost 5,000 people with developmental disabilities, physical
18 disabilities, or traumatic brain injury on HCBS waiver waiting lists; and

19 WHEREAS, the demographics of Georgia indicate that an estimated 17,000 people with
20 disabilities are living with aging caregivers and this growing population will also need HCBS
21 should their caregivers become unable to provide support; and

22 WHEREAS, helping people remain with their current communities makes more sense
23 economically than paying expensive institutional costs later; and

24 WHEREAS, a multiple year strategic plan and corresponding funding plan are needed to
25 build community capacity which will also assist state agencies and the legislature to remain
26 focused on priorities in both good and bad economic times; and

27 WHEREAS, with a multiple year funding plan, Georgia will have the comprehensive system
28 of supports and services in ten years that enable all people to live, work, play, and worship
29 in their communities of choice, and allow Georgians to age in place with their families,
30 friends, and neighbors; and

31 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the General Assembly and the State of Georgia to
32 have a multiyear strategic development plan for providing Georgians with an accessible
33 community based system of services and supports that projects necessary appropriations for
34 Fiscal Year 2012 through Fiscal Year 2017; and

35 WHEREAS, this comprehensive plan should be submitted to the Speaker of the House of
36 Representatives no later than July 1, 2010, and should include considerations of the
37 NOW/COMP waivers which support people with developmental disabilities, the ICWP
38 waiver which supports people with physical disabilities and traumatic brain injury, state
39 funded family support, funds for community based mental health services, and funds
40 necessary to supply provider rates that meet the realistic costs of providing services and
41 increase the capacity of community based providers.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body urge the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental
44 Disabilities, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Human Services
45 to provide the General Assembly with a strategic plan, developed with the *Olmstead*
46 coordinator, which sets priorities for home and community based services for people with
47 developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health issues, and traumatic brain
48 injury and to support a multiyear funding commitment projecting the appropriations
49 necessary to address the need for services for these Georgians.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
51 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Board of Behavioral

- 52 Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Board of Community Health, and the Board of
53 Human Services.